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WEEKLY REPORT

THE SITUATION IN THE CONGO

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

Office of Current Intelligence

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Situation in the Congo

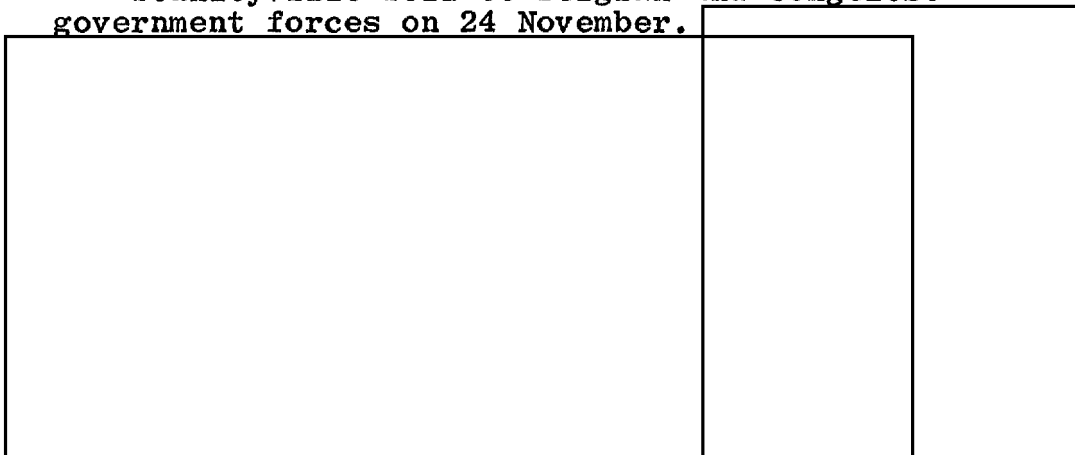
(Information as of 1600 EST 24 November)

1. Summary

Belgian paratroops which landed in Stanleyville on 24 November, and the Van Der Walle column which arrived four hours later, have divided the city into sectors and are clearing the remaining resistance. The five US consular officials held by the rebels have been removed to Leopoldville. The insurgents killed at least 30 Europeans and wounded many more before the paratroops could reach them. Anti-American demonstrations can be expected in many African capitals, but their impact may be blunted by tales of rebel brutality.

2. Military Situation

Stanleyville fell to Belgian and Congolese government forces on 24 November.



The Van Der Walle column had pushed off from Lubutu for Stanleyville on 23 November. Once in Stanleyville, the column seized Camp Ketele, to which it had been frequently reported, hostages

were taken for interrogations and beating. At mid-afternoon the troops were concentrating on cleaning up the city's center, but had encountered some heavy fighting.

Stanleyville's fall, besides being a psychological blow to the rebel cause, will deprive the insurgents of one of their principal sources of supply: the large munitions depots which they had captured from the Congo Army.

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Although reports conflict, it is evident that before the city's liberation, there were at least two instances of wholesale, deliberate killing of Europeans. At least 30 were slain by the rebels on the morning of the drop and as many as 50 were wounded. Dr. Carlson and an American woman missionary were killed.

In eastern Congo, government forces north of Beni have encountered strong resistance while trying to secure important road junctions. The rebels are reportedly well armed. The combined mercenary-ANC forces are operating without air support.

Northwest of Bukavu, government troops on the road from Walikale towards Lubutu have been stalled by insurgents fleeing the Van Der Walle columns which recently passed through Lubutu. Other government forces south of Bukavu have met strong resistance in an operation against rebel-held Fizi near Lake Tanganyika. In trying to mop up the remaining rebel resistance these troops have recently encountered some sophisticated guerrilla tactics.

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Pockets of rebel resistance and roving gangs of insurgents remain along the route of the Van Der Walle march, particularly in the area from the northern border of Katanga to the towns of Kindu and Punia. West of Kindu to the border of Sankuru Province is apparently a no-man's land.

Southwest of Stanleyville, government forces occupying Ikela are reportedly advancing towards Opala--90 miles to the east--which the rebels are apparently evacuating. Large numbers of rebels and jeunesse gangs control the region bounded by Ikela, Boende, and the left bank of the Congo River.

The combined mercenary-ANC force operating out of Bumba on the Congo River now has captured Aketi and has rescued 10 Americans and 134 Belgians.

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4. Diplomatic Moves and African Reaction

The Organization of African Unity (OAU) Secretariat announced yesterday that the OAU's ad hoc commission on the Congo will convene in Nairobi on 26 November, instead of on 1 December

as previously planned. Commission Chairman Kenyatta probably now intends to use it as a platform from which to denounce the US-Belgian intervention. In a letter delivered 23 November to Ambassador Attwood, Kenyatta stated that "the sending of the paratroops to Stanleyville will aggravate the situation rather than save it."

On 24 November, Attwood declared in Nairobi that his talks with rebel "Foreign Minister" Thomas Kanza had ended, because Kanza's proposals the day before for an immediate ceasefire and stopping the Van Der Walle column were an "outrageous threat" on the lives of the hostages.

Radical African nations probably will denounce the US and Belgium for their intervention. More moderate states, however, may hesitate to join the denunciations, because the evidence in Stanleyville of rebel atrocities supports the evident need of the paratroopers mission.

5. The Role of Belgian Business

Two possible indications of Belgian business confidence in the basic strength of the Congo economy appeared this week. The Congo franc which was quoted at 366 to the dollar last July hardened to 251 to the dollar on 20 November. In addition, Union Miniere du Haut Katanga, the Congo's copper producer, has announced immediate payment of a dividend deriving from the company's operations in 1961, the first year after Congolese independence.

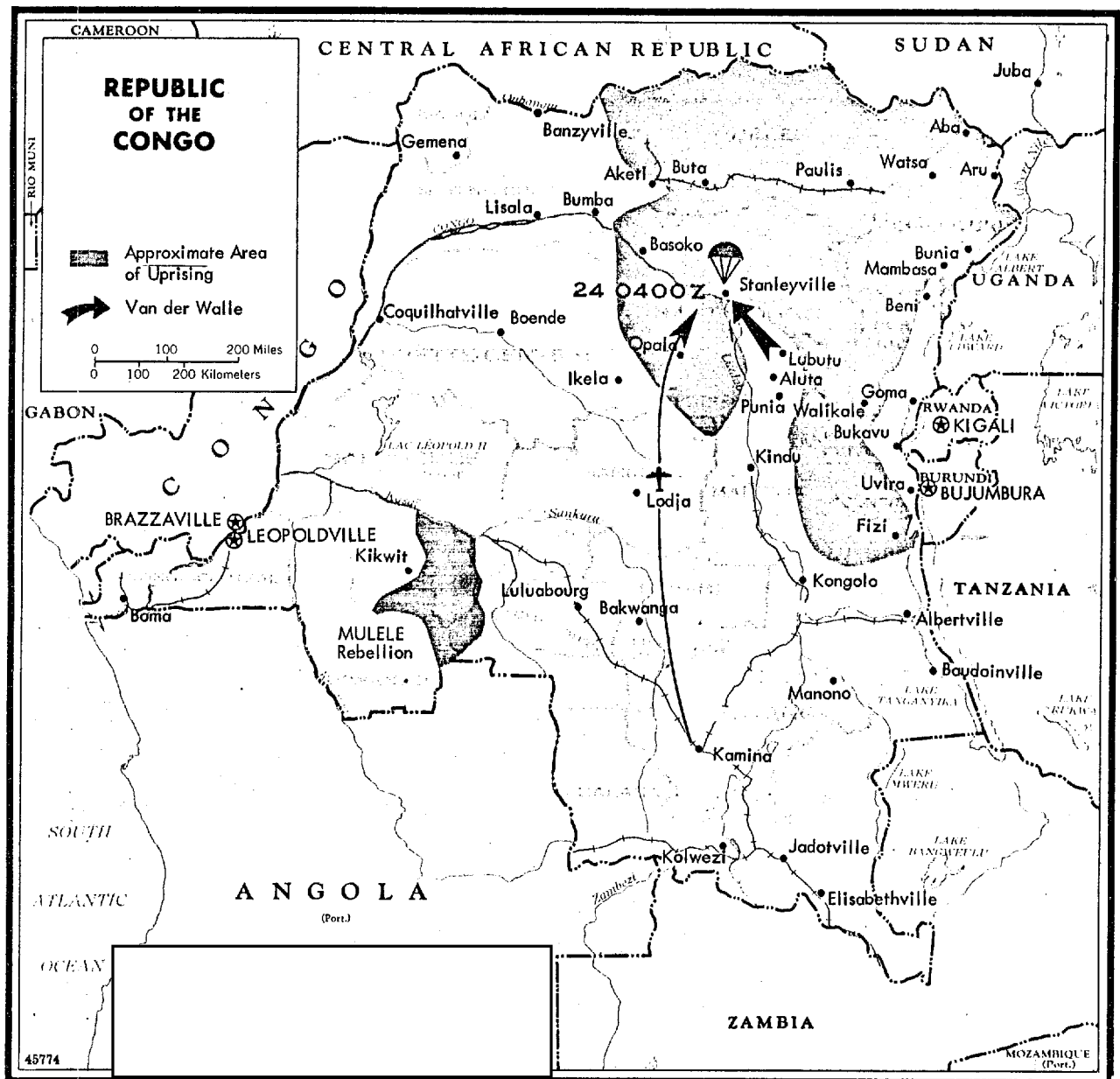
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The Belgians apparently have not reacted to the United Nations suggestion made last week that a Bolivian national be considered to head the

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Congolese Bureau of Economic Coordination. Belgium has, however, made clear that it wants one of its own nationals in the post. Brussels is likely to object particularly to consideration of a national of Bolivia, where mine nationalization has long been considered essential to the establishment of political sovereignty.

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